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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/472/Add.4)*]

70/205. Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 43/53 of 6 December 1988, 54/222 of 22 December 1999, 62/86 of 10 December 2007, 63/32 of 26 November 2008, 64/73 of 7 December 2009, 65/159 of 20 December 2010, 66/200 of 22 December 2011, 67/210 of 21 December 2012, 68/212 of 20 December 2013 and 69/220 of 19 December 2014, and other resolutions and decisions relating to the protection of the global climate for present and future generations of humankind,

Noting that the content of the present resolution does not prejudge the outcome of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015,

Welcoming the convening of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, underscoring the commitment of all States to work for an ambitious and universal climate agreement, and reaffirming that any protocol, other legal instrument or agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties shall address in a balanced manner, inter alia, mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity-building and transparency of action and support,

Acknowledging that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change[1] is the primary international, intergovernmental forum for negotiating the global response to climate change, expressing determination to address decisively the threat posed by climate change and environmental degradation, recognizing that the global nature of climate change calls for the widest possible international cooperation aimed at accelerating the reduction of global greenhouse gas emissions and addressing adaptation to the adverse impacts of climate change, and noting with grave concern the significant gap between the aggregate effect of parties' mitigation pledges in terms of global annual emissions of greenhouse gases by 2020 and aggregate emission pathways, consistent with having a likely chance of holding the

[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1771, No. 30822.

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increase in global average temperature below 2 degrees Celsius, or 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels,

Recalling the objectives, principles and provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Noting the reiteration by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention that the work of the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action shall be guided by the principles of the Convention,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[3] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation),[4] the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[5] the outcomes of the thirteenth to twentieth sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the third to tenth sessions of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020, adopted at the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Istanbul, Turkey, from 9 to 13 May 2011,[6] the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States,[7] the Mauritius Declaration[8] and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States[9] and the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[10]

Recalling also the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012, entitled "The future we want",[11]

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions —

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[2] Resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] Ibid., resolution 2, annex.

[5] Resolution 60/1.

[6] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. II.

[7] *Report of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Bridgetown, Barbados, 25 April–6 May 1994* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.I.18 and corrigenda), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[8] *Report of the International Meeting to Review the Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, Port Louis, Mauritius, 10-14 January 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.II.A.4 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex I.

[9] Ibid., annex II.

[10] Resolution 69/15, annex.

[11] Resolution 66/288, annex.

economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Taking note of the successful and timely initial resource mobilization process of the Green Climate Fund, making it the largest dedicated climate fund and enabling it to start its activities in supporting developing country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change,

Noting the need for enhanced coordination and cooperation at all levels among the parties to and secretariats of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa, [12] and the Convention on Biological Diversity, [13] as appropriate, while respecting their individual mandates,

1. *Reaffirms* that climate change is one of the greatest challenges of our time, expresses profound alarm that the emissions of greenhouse gases continue to rise globally, remains deeply concerned that all countries, particularly developing countries, are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and are already experiencing an increase in such impacts, including persistent drought and extreme weather events, land degradation, sea-level rise, coastal erosion and ocean acidification, further threatening food security and efforts to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development, and in this regard emphasizes that mitigation of and adaptation to climate change represent an immediate and urgent global priority;

2. *Notes* the determination of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its eighteenth session, expressed in its decision 2/CP.18,[14] to adopt a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties at its twenty-first session, and for it to come into effect and be implemented from 2020;

3. *Takes note* of the outcome of the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and of the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, hosted by the Government of Peru in Lima from 1 to 14 December 2014;[15]

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[12] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1954, No. 33480.

[13] Ibid., vol. 1760, No. 30619.

[14] See FCCC/CP/2012/8/Add.1.

[15] FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.1–3 and FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/9/Add.1.

4. *Recalls* in particular the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its nineteenth session, expressed in its decision 1/CP.19,[16] to all parties to initiate or intensify domestic preparations for their intended nationally determined contributions, without prejudice to the legal nature of the contributions, in the context of adopting a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all parties towards achieving the objective of the Convention, as set out in its article 2, that will represent a progression beyond the current undertaking of each party;

5. *Welcomes* the submission of intended nationally determined contributions from more than 170 parties, takes note of the synthesis report on the aggregate effect of such contributions[17] by the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, taking into account that some intended nationally determined contributions were communicated after the submission of the report, and notes the need for further actions;

6. *Reiterates* the resolve of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, as set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of its decision 1/CP.19, to accelerate the full implementation of the decisions constituting the agreed outcome pursuant to its decision 1/CP.13[18] and to enhance ambition in the pre-2020 period in order to ensure the highest possible mitigation efforts under the Convention by all parties;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in Lima from 1 to 14 December 2014;[19]

8. *Also takes note* of decision 2/CP.20 adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention at its twentieth session, held in Lima from 1 to 14 December 2014, on the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts;[20]

9. *Further takes note* of the invitation of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention to parties to communicate their intended nationally determined contributions in a manner that facilitates the clarity, transparency and understanding thereof;

10. *Notes* the work undertaken by the Lima-Paris Action Agenda, with a view to galvanizing action to address climate change;

11. *Notes with appreciation* the hosting by the Government of France of the twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and the eleventh session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, in Paris from 30 November to 13 December 2015;

12. *Welcomes* the offer by the Government of Morocco to host the twenty-second session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention in 2016;

13. *Urges* Member States to promote the integration of a gender perspective into environmental and climate change policies and to strengthen mechanisms and

[16] See FCCC/CP/2013/10/Add.1.
[17] FCCC/CP/2015/7.
[18] See FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1.
[19] A/70/230, sect. I.
[20] See FCCC/CP/2014/10/Add.2.

provide adequate resources towards achieving the full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to paragraph 96 of the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[11] to submit an action plan for the Secretariat that will be designed to work within existing procurement rules and policies aimed at integrating sustainable development practices into its operations and facilities management, building on existing efforts and promoting cost-effectiveness, and in accordance with legislative frameworks, including financial rules and regulations, while maintaining accountability to Member States, with the specific goal of a United Nations that does not, through its operations or facilities management, have a negative impact on the climate, as soon as possible, or by 2020, if practicable;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make provisions for the sessions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention and its subsidiary bodies in his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2018–2019;

16. *Invites* the secretariat of the Convention to report, through the Secretary-General, to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session on the work of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention, and decides to include, under the item entitled "Sustainable development", the sub-item entitled "Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind" in the provisional agenda of its seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015